true. Depending on solar system's configuration and financing arrangements, the cost of solar electricity can be even higher.

(c) and (d) It is generally believed that new technologies such as thin film solar cells and large volume production can lead to lower initial cost of photovoltaic power systems. This could in turn lead to a cost of electricity which is comparable to that from the grid. In view of this potential, the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has been supporting development of thin film solar cells based on amorphous silicon, polycrystalline silicon, Cadmium Telluride and Copper Indium Diselenide materials. Research projects have been supported by the Ministry in these areas at the Indian Association for Cultivation of Science, Kolkata; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi; National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi; Jadavpur University, Kolkata and Cochin University. The Ministry has also started a soft loan scheme for supporting the establishment of manufaturing facilities for solar cells and silicon material which can lead to lower production costs.

Coconut Oil as Cheaper Substitute to Petrol and Diesel

3557. SHRI K.M. SAIFULLAH: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Coconut Oil offers a cheap substitute to Petrol and Diesel as found out by a Thai farmer;

(b) whether Governemnt will tap its potential and undertake research to help boosting rural economy; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVNTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Coconut oil is primarily used as an edible oil and also as a base for various pharmaceuticals, especially ayurveda formulations. Use of Coconut oil to substitute petrol and diesel is not a cheaper option due to its higher price in India.